

DEA INFORMANT ACCUSED OF MURDER CLAIMS CIA LINK
TUCSON

A former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration informant who was convicted of killing a state Department of Public Safety narcotics agent plans an entrapment defense at his second trial, it was reported Friday.

Genaro Celaya is accused in the shooting death of undercover DPS agent John Walker Nov. 30, 1974 at Tucson International Airport.

In a copyright story, the Arizona Daily Star said Celaya will claim he was entrapped because he turned down a U.S. intelligence assignment.

Celaya refused to take command of "Operation Condor," reportedly a conduit for the United States to channel money and weapons to friendly groups in Central America, the newspaper said.

The Star also said it learned Celaya was a go-between for U.S. corporations and top Mexican leaders in efforts by American firms to secure a long-term deal on Mexican oil.

The Arizona Supreme Court last year overturned Celaya's 1981 first-degree murder conviction. Pima County Judge Richard N. Roylston should have allowed the jury to consider lesser charges, the high court held.

Celaya shot Walker to steal \$88,000 the agent carried to make a cocaine deal, prosecutors alleged. Celaya, 27 when the shooting occurred, testified he needed the money to bribe a Mexican official to arrest a drug dealer who had threatened to kill him.

A 16-page defense document linking Celaya to U.S. intelligence work was characterized as "science fiction" by Roylston at a hearing last week.

The document said Celaya's government ties came mainly through Hugh Murray of Tucson, who described himself as a DEA official who had worked for the CIA for 16 years.

The Star said Murray had admitted indirect participation in a 1964 operation in Bolivia that resulted in the killing of Cuban revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara. The CIA would not confirm whether it had employed Murray.

In the late 1970s, Celaya acted as an intermediary between Jose Lopez Portillo, who at the time was president of Mexico, and other officials when U.S. firms tried to set up an oil deal, the newspaper said.

L. A. M. Mott of Dallas, a Dresser Industries executive, said Celaya had helped Dresser in negotiating a contract to sell oil drilling equipment to Pemex, Mexico's petroleum monopoly.

Judge G. Thomas Meenan, presiding criminal judge of Superior Court, planned a hearing Friday afternoon to explore Murray's involvement in government intelligence and the extent to which Celaya's activities were directed.